



SNZ UMPIRES ANNUAL RULES TEST 2015

PRE-AMBLE: This Annual Rules Test is based on the New Zealand Rule Book - as revised August 2014 and relates to Fast Pitch only.



For the sake of brevity and clarity some questions will use the following symbols:



- FOR FIELDERS:** F1 = Pitcher; F2 = Catcher; F3 = 1st Base; F4 = 2nd Base;
F5 = 3rd Base; F6 = Shortstop; F7 = Left Field; F8 = Centre Field; F9 = Right Field.
- FOR RUNNERS:** R1 is always the lead runner, followed by R2, R3 etc.
- FOR BATTERS:** BR is the batter-runner; B1 is the lead-off batter, followed by B2, B3, B4 etc.
- FOR SUBSTITUTES:** S1 is the first substitution player, followed by S2, S3, S4 etc.
- FOR THE BASES:** 1B = 1st Base; 2B = 2nd base; 3B = 3rd base; HP = Home plate
- FOR THE UMPIRES:** PU = Plate Umpire; BU = Base Umpire; U1 = 1st base Umpire; U3 = 3rd base umpire


INSTRUCTIONS:

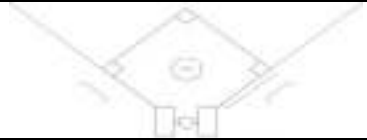

- 1) This Rules Test is an **Open Book Test**. You may use the New Zealand Rule Book to answer the questions. We highly recommend you do so. Answer strictly according to the New Zealand Rule Book and **NOT** local bylaws and/or ground rules.
- 2) Only the answer sheet (page 12) of this Rules Test is to be returned for marking. You should retain the question portion for your records and further study.
- 3) There are 100 questions in total.
- 4) Writing of this test is to be done by individuals and not as a group to ensure the test is beneficial to the individual.
- 5) All answers are either TRUE/FALSE and are worth (1) mark each (a total of 100 marks).
- 6) Please indicate your answer by writing on the answer sheet **T** or **F**
- 7) Copy your answers to the true/false column on the question paper for your own reference later, and use the diamonds for plays.
- 8) Answer sheets can be typed in or scanned and emailed to spendennis@outlook.co.nz, or can be posted to Dennis Smith, 9 Botany Lane, Whitby. If sending by post, where possible please provide an email address as your mark will be emailed to you.
- 9) The Rules Test will close **Friday November 6th 2015**. Answers will be posted on the SNZ Umpires Website **Friday November 13th 2015**.




NOTE: Answer sheets that are not received prior to the posting of the answers online **WILL NOT be marked.**


No.	Question	T or F	Diamond
1.	The penalty for use of an altered bat is the ejection of the batter.		
2.	With a count of two balls and two strikes, the batter may be awarded an Intentional Base On Balls by the Manager, pitcher or catcher, and the ball remains alive.		
3.	The Flex player may enter the game at any time to bat, as long as he bats in the DP's position in the line-up.		
4.	An Illegal pitcher is a player who may no longer pitch in a game as a result of the defensive charged conference limit being exceeded.		
5.	An intentionally dropped fly ball is a fair fly ball which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, with less than two outs and a runner on first base, and the fielder is judged to have deliberately dropped the ball after it has been controlled by the hands or glove.		
6.	An outfielder who moves into the area normally covered by infielders may be considered an infielder.		
7.	A legal touch (Tag) is the action of a fielder touching (Tagging) a batter-runner or runner who is not in contact with a base, or a fielder touching a base with any part of his body, as long as the ball is firmly held in the hand(s) or glove.		
8.	If a player over slides any base except first base, he places himself in jeopardy.		
9.	A thrown ball to any base for a force out which is caught with the glove over the ball on the ground rather than under the ball, is considered a trapped ball.		
10.	An overthrow is a play in which the ball is thrown from one fielder to another and cannot be caught or controlled, is not blocked and remains in play.		
11.	A fly ball is hit to deep LF, hits the foul pole above the home run fence and bounds into foul territory. This is a foul ball		






12.	A fly ball to deep CF rebounds off the top of the home run fence, hits the fielder's glove and then bounds over the home run fence. This is a home run as it has not touched the ground.		
13.	Gloves with white, grey or yellow optic circles on the outside giving the appearance of a ball, are illegal for all players.		
14.	A normal softball bat filled with sand may be used as a warm up bat as long as it is marked "warm-up" in 3.2cm (1 ¼ in) letters on the barrel end.		
15.	It is permissible for the pitcher to wear a warming (compression) sleeve on his pitching arm only.		
16.	If an Umpire deems a player's jewellery to be distracting, he may request the player to remove it. Failure to comply will result in the player being removed.		
17.	A batter-runner is a player who has finished a turn at bat but has not yet been put out or touched first base.		
18.	A base path is a direct line between a base the runner is advancing to, and the runner's position at the time a defensive player is attempting (or about to attempt) to tag the runner.		
19.	A thrown ball unintentionally touching a base coach in or out of the coach's box is a blocked ball.		
20.	All male players including the Coaches must wear approved caps.		
21.	A fair ball is not judged by the position of the ball in relation to the foul line when touched by a fielder, but by the fielder's position when he touches the ball.		
22.	The DP may enter the game on defence for any player.		
23.	When a runner passes a preceding runner, before the preceding runner is declared out, the passing runner shall be declared out and the ball remains alive.		
24.	A batted ball first touches the ground in foul territory just short of first base, and then touches the foul portion of first base as it bounds over the base, and lands in fair territory. This is ruled a fair ball.		
25.	A foul ball is ruled when the ball hits the bat a second time when the batter has the bat in hand and he is in the batter's box.		





26.	A force out can be accomplished by either tagging the runner or tagging the base the runner is forced to.		
27.	If the DP or the Flex is substituted, they may not re-enter the game except as a replacement player.		
28.	A batter-runner rounds first base and reaches second base. Then for some reason he retreats back to first base. On an attempted play at first base the ball is overthrown. For the purpose of a two base award, first base is considered the last base touched at the time of the throw.		
29.	A pitcher, returning to pitch in the same half innings is entitled to one warm up pitch.		
30.	A batter-runner over runs first base and then in returning to first base turns left and returns in the fair territory. He will be declared out if tagged before returning to first base.		
31.	When a runner leads off a base before the pitched ball is released by the pitcher, the runner is out, the ball is dead and a “no pitch” will be declared.		
32.	A catcher obstructs the batter and the coach takes the option to take the penalty for catcher obstruction. The batter is awarded 1B and runners only advance if forced.		
33	The pitcher is ready to pitch when the batter crosses the home plate to bat from the other box. There is no penalty for this action.		
34.	The on deck batter enters the on-deck circle and swings with three approved bats. The third bat must be returned to the dugout. Continued violation of the rule could result in an ejection.		
35.	When a fly ball hits the foul pole above the home run fence and rebounds into fair territory, the ball is alive and play may continue.		
36.	With a runner on second base attempting to steal to third base, the batter steps out of the box and prevents the catcher from making a play. The batter is out and the runner is safe on third base.		
37.	A batter wearing a helmet with one ear flap on the side facing the pitcher is acceptable.		







38.	A batter is awarded first base on ball four. Instead of going directly to first base, he goes to his dugout and hands his bat to a fellow player outside the dugout and then proceeds towards first base. The opposition can appeal for the batter not going directly to first base.		
39.	A batter is awarded first base after being hit by a pitched ball. He goes into his dugout to apply some ointment to the affected area, and then goes to first base. There is no penalty for his failure to proceed directly to first base.		
40.	The pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitching plate with his hands separated while taking the signal from the catcher; otherwise an illegal pitch will be called with no pitch being thrown.		
41.	The Flex is injured and has to leave the game. The Coach announces he is placing the DP in the Flex's fielding position. This is allowed.		
42.	The Flex starts the game as F1. In the 5 th inning the coach announces the Flex is to bat for the DP. This is allowed.		
43.	The DP plays defence for Jones (fielding at shortstop) in the third inning. The coach announces that since the DP is fielding for Jones, he wants the Flex to bat for Jones. This is allowed.		
44.	The batter hits an out of the park home run, and as he passes third base, he is called out for removing his helmet.		
45.	The batter hits a line drive which F6 tries to catch, the ball deflects off his glove and strikes the Umpire behind F6 and is then caught by F4. This is not considered a legal catch.		
46.	The batter bunts the ball and as he attempts to advance to first base, he accidentally dislodges his helmet. The dislodged helmet interferes with the catchers attempt to make a play. Since the helmet was accidentally dislodged, there is no penalty.		
47.	It is legal for a coach to have a scorebook, pencil and indicator, but no communication equipment while in the coach's box.		
48.	At the end of the 3 rd inning the score is 16-0. The game should be stopped.		

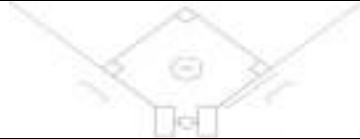
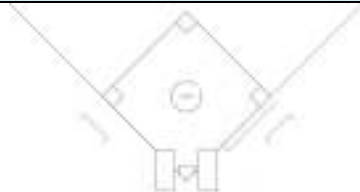
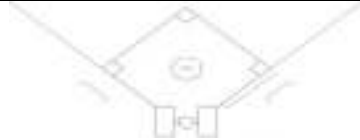

49.	The 3 rd base coach requests time to confer with the batter. Later in the same inning, the 1 st base coach wishes to confer with the 3 rd base coach. The Umpire should not allow this.		
50.	Bases loaded with two outs. The batter hits a home run but misses 1 st base. The opposition appeals for the miss base. The appeal is upheld and the Umpire rules that three runs score.		
51.	An offensive team coach has a conference with R1 at 2B. In the same inning B4 swings at two high pitches, so the coach insists on another time out to speak to him. The umpire should eject the coach?		
52.	The defensive coach crosses the foul line to confer with F1. In the same half inning, the coach again crosses the foul line, brings all defensive players except F1 to 2B, and has a conference. This is considered a second conference?		
53.	The umpire calls a ball on B1. F1, upset with the call, throws two pitches underhand to F6 before getting back on the pitcher's plate for the next pitch. There is no violation for F1 throwing to another defensive player between pitches?		
54.	F1 places resin on the ball before the next pitch. The Umpire warns the Coach that this practice must stop. Later F6 places resin on the ball before handing it to F1. The Umpire ejects F6.		
55.	R1 on 2B with one out. B3 has a 2-2 count. An illegal pitch is called on B3 who swings at the pitch. The ball was dropped by the F2. B3 makes 1B safely. R1 advances to 3B. The coach is given an option of taking the result of the play, or the award for the illegal pitch.		
56.	R1 on 2B. F1 pitches the first ball to B2 illegally; however B2 manages to hit the ball to F6. F6 fields the ball, holds R1 at 2B, and then throws to F3 but not in time to retire B2. The offensive team coach elects not to take the result of the play. RULING: The ball is dead, R1 is advanced to 3B and Batter 2 returns to bat again with a count of Ball 1.		
57.	The coach yells from the dugout that he wants the batter to be awarded an Intentional Walk. F2 relays this message to the Umpire, who refuses the request as it has to come from F1.		
58.	F1 changes position with F3 and later in the same inning returns to pitch. The umpire does not allow any warm up pitches.		

59.	Smith, the pitcher for team "A" singles and reaches first base safely. The coach calls time for Smith to put on his warm-up jacket. During this time the coach talks to Smith. The Umpire tells the coach, this is a charged conference.		
60.	R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B and R3 on 1B. B4 hits a long fly ball to CF. F7 collides with F8 as both are attempting to make the catch, and both are slightly injured. The defence calls for "Time", in an attempt to prevent the last two runners from scoring. All runners cross home plate. The umpire does not grant time?		
61.	B7 bats in place of B5. With a 3-2 count on B7 the batting infraction is detected by (a) B5, (b) the defensive manager, or (c) the manager of the offensive team. In all cases the umpire allows the proper batter to take their place at bat, assuming the 3-2 count?		
62.	The on-deck batter has two bats in the circle, one in his hand and another on the ground. A fly ball is coming in his direction, so he vacates the circle. The fielder trips over the bat left behind and is prevented from making a catch. The umpire rules interference on the on-deck batter and calls the batter out.		
63.	B4 (Smith) bats out-of-order in place of B1 (Wilson) and hits a triple with none out. No appeal is made. B2 (Brown) bats and strikes out. B3 (Jones) walks. The DR is placed on 3B so that B4 (Smith) can bat in his proper place.		
64.	With the batter ready to bat, the catcher is ready and the pitcher is receiving signals from the catcher. The batter steps over the plate to the opposite batter's box. The umpire calls the batter out.		
65.	B1 has a count of 2 balls and 2 strikes. The next pitch is high but B1 takes an almighty swing and completely misses the pitch, the ball hits B1 on the shoulder. RULING: Dead Ball. Award B1 to 1B on the hit by pitch.		
66.	The batter is ready, the catcher is ready and the pitcher has brought his hands together to deliver the pitch. The batter calls time and steps completely out of the batter's box. The umpire did not call time but allowed the batter to step out of the box. This is acceptable.		
67.	F2 drops the third strike. The batter (B1) starts toward the dugout and F2 does not throw to 1B. B1 then realizes that the catcher has dropped the ball and arrives safely at 1B. The umpire rules B1 safe?		
68.	The batter is given an intentional base on balls. F1 walks to F2 for a conference, at which time the batter-runner rounds 1B and runs to 2B where he arrives before the throw by F1. The umpire allows the advance to 2B.		
69.	R1 on 3B advances home on B4's single. He misses home plate and enters his team area. His team mates advise him that he missed the plate, so he promptly returns and touches it, after which, F2, with the ball now in his possession, makes an appeal play by tagging home plate. The umpire calls R1 out?		

70.	B1 reaches 1B on an infield hit and after over-running the base, turns right into foul territory. He notices that the throw to F3 is wild. He then takes two quick steps as if going to 2B, but stops when he decides he cannot make it. At this point he has not crossed the foul line. On his way to 1B, he is tagged by F3, who appeals. The umpire calls B1 out?		
71.	F4 has to jump to catch a wild throw, but is unsuccessful. R1 slides into 2B and F4 falls on top of R1. The players untangle themselves as the ball is returned to the infield. The umpire judged that R1 would have advanced safely to 3B had the fielder not obstructed him. The runner after untangling himself makes no effort to advance to 3B. The umpire does not advance the runner to 3B.		
72.	On a wild throw to a base, the ball hits a player standing in the entrance to the dugout, and rebounds into the playing field. The umpire judges that had the player not been in the entrance the ball would have been dead, so he advances all runners two bases on the overthrow award.		
73.	With a runner on 2B, the batted ball is a slow roller to F6 who crosses the baseline to field the ball. The runner bounces off F6, recovers and continues to 3B. The BU rules obstruction. F6 retrieves the ball and flicks it to F5 who tags the runner just short of 3B. The runner runs into F5 in an upright stance and dislodges the ball from F5's glove. The BU rules interference, but calls the runner safe on the obstruction by F6.		
74.	R1 is at 3B with no outs. B3 bunts the ball down the 3B line. R1 is caught in a rundown between 3B and Home. B3 seeing that R1 is trapped, then turns around and runs toward home plate. R1 is tagged, at which point B3 turns and reaches 1B safely. The action by R1 is legal.		
75.	R1 on 2B and R2 on 1B. B3 hits a ground ball to F8 and both runners advance one base. The coach at 3B runs toward home plate waving R1 on to home, as F8 fields the ball. On seeing this, and thinking the coach is a runner, F8 throws to F2. The throw to F2 is a wild throw and R1 scores. R2 advances to 3B and B3 advances to 2B. There is no penalty for the coach's actions.		
76.	The batter has a count of 3 balls and 2 strikes. The next pitch is judged a ball, gets away from F2 and goes out of play under the backstop. The batter is awarded first base on the four balls and an extra base on the dead ball.		

77.	R1 on 2B and R2 on 1B with no outs. B3 hits a double to the right of CF. R1 and R2 score, but R2 misses 3B. B3 rounds 1B and reaches 2B safely, as the defence throws the ball to 3B for an appeal. The umpire asks F5 which runner he is appealing. He states R1 missed the base. The umpire rules the runner is safe as they are appealing the incorrect runner. The fielder then states that he made a mistake and it is R2 he is appealing. The umpire believes this then is a guessing game, and does not allow the second appeal.		
78.	B1 hits a long ground ball to deep RF. He rounds all bases and advances toward home. F9 relays the ball to F4 who turns and throws to F2 for a possible play at the plate. B1's teammates, seeing that he could score a run, leave the dugout and gather at the plate to offer congratulations. F2 takes the throw and attempts to tag B1 sliding for the plate but is confused by the offensive players gathering at the plate. B1 is ruled out.		
79.	The ball is hit sharply down the first base line, goes untouched between F3's legs and accidentally strikes R1 who is two paces off first base towards second base. No other fielder had a chance to make a play. The umpire rules R1 is out for interference.		
80.	B1 hits a ground ball to F6, who throws wildly to F3. F3 is unable to field the ball and it strikes the first base coach before ricocheting into the outfield, allowing B1 to advance to 3B. The umpire rules coach's interference, and the ball is dead.		
81.	With R1 on 3B, B4 is awarded a base on balls. R1 has advanced two paces on the pitch and stays there to watch B4's advance to 1B. F2 returns the ball to F1 in the circle. B4 rounds 1B and slowly advances towards 2B while R1 remains off his base (drawing the pitcher's attention) in order to help B4 reach 2B safely. The umpire rules R1 out for failing to return to 3B, and B4 returns to 1B.		
82.	R1 on 3B leads off on the pitch as B2 hits a ground ball down the third base line. The ball hits 3B and bounces back, hitting R1 while he is in foul territory. F5 would not have been able to make an out. R1 is called out.		
83.	R3 on 3B, none out. B1 hits the ball to F3 who fields the ball and then comes up to tag B1. B1 stops 10 feet from 1B and R3 is about 6 feet from home plate. B1 steps back toward home plate to avoid the tag by F3. The umpire declares dead ball, rules B1 out and R3 is returned to 3B.		

84.	R1 is on 3B and R3 is on 1B; one out. On the next pitch, R3 slowly makes his way to 2B hoping to draw a throw and be put in a run down so that R1 can score. R1 moves two or three paces toward home. No throw is made and R3 touches 2B as the ball is returned to F1. R1 moves toward home causing F1 to fake a throw. R3 runs slowly back toward 1B. F1 throws the ball to F3 in an effort to put out R3 as he returns to 1B. R1 scores before R3 is tagged out by F3. The umpires rule R1 scores and now there are two outs.		
85.	R1 on 2B. R2 on 1B. 1 out. R1 & R2 lead off on the pitch. B9 hits a long fly to F8. R1 is obstructed by F6 attempting to return to 2B to tag up on the catch. In the judgment of the umpire, R1 would not have made it back in time so calls R1 out on an appeal for the 3rd out of the inning.		
86.	None out, with R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B, and R3 on 1B. B4 flies out to F8. All runners tag up then advance after the catch. F8 throws to F2 in an attempt to stop R1 from scoring. R1 scores and then intentionally interferes with F2's attempt to throw the ball to F6, for the tag on R3 who had not yet reached 2B. RULING: Declare the ball dead and R3 (the player being played on) out on the interference.		
87.	B2 hits a ground ball down the 3rd base line. F5 fields the ball on the run and throws towards 1B. F3 has to come off the base and towards home plate, in an effort to make the catch. When this occurs, F3 collides with B2, who is running outside the 0.91m line and in fair territory. RULING: The umpire should declare obstruction and award B2 safe at 1st.		
88.	B1 hits a foul fly ball near the 3rd base coach's box. F5 attempts to catch the ball but collides with the coach who has made no effort to get out of the way. The umpire judges that F5 could have caught the ball. RULING: This is a foul ball, as the coach is entitled to remain in the coach's box.		
89.	R1 on 1B, B2 singles to F9. R1 rounds 2B and advances toward 3B, as the throw from F9 beats him to the base by 0.91m (3ft). F5 is holding the ball and R1 slides, knocking the ball from the glove & out of play. At the time the ball goes out of play, R1 has touched 3B and is advancing toward home, and B2 has rounded 2B. RULING: R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded 3B.		
90.	R2 on 3B. B4 hits a high foul fly ball towards F5, who moves into foul territory to catch it. R2, who started for home on the hit, returns to re-touch his base but, in doing so, collides with F5 in foul territory causing the ball to drop to the ground. F5 could easily have caught the ball. RULING: B4 is out on the interference and R2 remains at 3B.		

91.	R2 is on 3B and R3 is on 2B; none out. The batter hits a fly ball to F6 who intentionally drops the ball. The PU declares "Dead Ball" and rules the BR out and returns R2 and R3 back to their respective bases		
92.	B4 hits a fly ball to CF. F8 throws his glove into the air to make a spectacular catch over his head as the glove, with the ball in it, falls back into his hands. The PU indicates a delayed dead ball. B4 continues to run the bases and crosses home plate as the outfielder celebrates his remarkable play. The PU rules dead ball and awards the BR third base.		
93.	It is not interference, and the runner is not out, when more than one fielder attempts to field a batted ball and the runner comes into contact with the one, who in the umpire's judgment could not have made a play.		
94.	B1 attempts to avoid being hit by a pitched ball in the batter's box, but inadvertently moves into the pitch he is trying to avoid, and the ball brushes the shirt of B1. Ruling: The batter is awarded 1B and the ball is dead.		
95.	R1 is on 1B. On the next pitch, R1 attempts to steal 2B. F2 throws the ball and hits the BU moving in to make the call. No fielder had an opportunity to make a play. The BU immediately declares "Dead Ball" and returns R1 to 1B on the umpire's interference.		
96.	The ball remains alive and in play when a runner is called out for getting a running start from a base on any fly ball.		
97.	With one out, B4 has 3 balls and 2 strikes. R1 steals 2B on the pitch. F2 throws to 2B, as the PU calls ball 4 and, as the throw is on time, the base umpire calls R1 out. When he leaves the base to start for the dugout, the defence tags him again. The BU now realizes B2 has ball 4 and that R1 is entitled to 2B. Had the umpire not called R1 out, he would not have left the base. R1 is safe at 2B.		
98.	R2 on 2B, B1 hits a line drive down 3rd base line. F5 misjudges the ball and it hits him directly in the face causing bleeding. The PU calls "Dead Ball" immediately. The PU awards bases that in his judgment would have been reached if "Dead Ball" had not been called.		
99.	R1 on 3B and R2 on 2B with one out. The scoreboard shows two outs, as B4 hits a long fly ball to F8. F8 makes the catch and throws the ball to F6 who rolls the ball into the pitcher's circle as he believes there are three outs. R1 and R2 both score. The defence claims there were two outs before the catch as that was what the scoreboard showed. The umpires let the two runs score.		
100.	R1 on 3B, R2 on 2B, R3 on 1B with no outs. B4 hits a single with R1 scoring and R2 advancing to the plate. The throw comes to the plate and R2 is caught in a rundown between 3B and home. R3 advances to 3B and is standing on 3B while B4 advances to 2B. R2 is obstructed going back to 3B and is then tagged out by F2. F2 then tags R3 on 3B. The umpire rules obstruction, places R2 on 3B and calls R3 out on the tag.		

SNZ RULES TEST ANSWER SHEET 2015

NAME: ASSOCIATION:

EMAIL: PH:

1		14		27		40		53		66		79		92	
2		15		28		41		54		67		80		93	
3		16		29		42		55		68		81		94	
4		17		30		43		56		69		82		95	
5		18		31		44		57		70		83		96	
6		19		32		45		58		71		84		97	
7		20		33		46		59		72		85		98	
8		21		34		47		60		73		86		99	
9		22		35		48		61		74		87		100	
10		23		36		49		62		75		88			
11		24		37		50		63		76		89			
12		25		38		51		64		77		90			
13		26		39		52		65		78		91			

Check your answers – Send **ONLY THIS SHEET** for marking – this is an OPEN BOOK TEST

A reminder this Rules Test closes Friday November 6th.

Email: spendennis@outlook.co.nz or post Dennis Smith, 9 Botany Lane Whitby, Porirua 5024